

## The Watchman and Southron.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 1898.

The *Sumter Watchman* was founded in 1880 and the *True Southron* in 1866. The *Watchman and Southron* now has been combined circulation and influence of both of the old papers, and is manifestly the best advertising medium in Sumter.

No new case of smallpox has developed in this city or immediate vicinity within a period of two weeks and we feel safe in asserting that insofar as the city of Sumter is concerned, the smallpox epidemic is at an end, and that in future no more cases are likely to be developed here. If we have any more smallpox in the city it will be brought from other places or from the country, for so thorough has been the vaccination that there are but few residents of Sumter who are not immune. As soon as the period of detention of the few convalescent patients now in the pest house has expired they will be dismissed and the pest house closed. The closing of the pest house will mark the end of the fight against the smallpox epidemic, and that it has proven so successful should be a source of the highest gratification to every citizen of Sumter. The Board of Health merits and should receive full recognition for the good work that has been done, and we take the greatest pleasure in congratulating each and every member of the Board, for we have some knowledge of the difficulties and obstacles they have encountered and their unflinching perseverance while laboring for the good of the city and to protect the people against a loathsome disease.

Hobson, of Alabama was as great, if not greater in his sphere and in proportion to his opportunity than Dewey, of Vermont. Both are Americans of the true type; cool and brave, daring, but not reckless, and modest gentlemen at all times. The far famed heroes of antiquity were not braver nor greater nor nobler than these American sailors of the present and unselfish nineteenth century. And there is Bagley will to be remembered. Was he less worthy of fame than Hobson? Was he less gallant, less patriotic or less brave? Not at all, and since success was denied him and his life was required as a sacrifice, his memory should be the more highly revered. Bagley and Hobson, gallant young Southerners, the one a martyr, the other a hero.

The campaign of the candidates, is opened in our columns to day by the cards of H. L. Scarborough for County Treasurer, and W. S. Dinwiddie for Supervisor. They are both good men, and have given satisfaction in filling these offices heretofore. We take pleasure in referring our readers to their cards. And the attention of other candidates who have not "come out," is invited to the fact that we are ready to assign them space to make their announcements.

The people who make cotton and buy bread and bacon, have good reason to feel interested in the success of Congressman Stokes' effort to prohibit gambling in futures. The extracts from his recent speech, published in this paper, furnish interesting reading on this subject.

## THE LEE COUNTY RACK-ET.

## Chief Justice McIver Signs More New Orders.

The fighting over Lee County seems to be getting in that condition which means much litigation and a lengthy battle before the whole affair is settled. It is not improbable, so it is thought, that the case before it is finished may be referred to a special master to take testimony. In that event the end is a long way off.

Chief Justice McIver yesterday gave these orders in the case:

"Upon hearing the motion of respondents for leave to amend their returns as in several particulars mentioned in the notice of the motion.

"It is ordered that respondents have leave to amend their return as moved for, and that a copy of the amended return be forthwith served upon counsel for petitioners.

"It is further ordered that petitioners have leave to withdraw their demurrer to the return and traverse the same, or any part thereof if they shall be so advised."—The State, June 8.

## U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

## Climate and Crop Bulletin of the Weather Bureau, South Carolina Section.

For the Week Ending Monday, June 6, 1898.

COLUMBIA, S. C., June 6.

The temperature remained high during the week, but gradually decreased from the extreme maximum of the close of the previous week. The highest temperature reported for the week was 98 degrees on 3rd at Poverty Hill. The day temperatures ranged between 98 degrees and 81 degrees, the latter on the last day. The nights were slightly cooler than during the previous week, with a minimum of 56 degrees on the 1st at Cheraw. The mean temperature for the week was 79 degrees, while the normal for the same period is about 75.

The rainfall for the week was generally light and came in the form of scattered showers; although not confined to any section of the State, the showers were most numerous and heaviest in the east central, southeastern, and northeastern counties. Six places reported measurements of 0.50 inch, or more, with a maximum fall of 1.01 inches at Gillisonville; 28 places reported amounts less than 0.50 inch; the average of all reports was 0.24 inch and the normal for the same period is approximately 1.12 inches.

The continued absence of a general, heavy rain will soon entail suffering. Small streams are dried up in Barnwell, and all streams are getting very low; wells are failing and in many instances have been sunk from 10 to 15 feet deeper to get water. The drought has in places existed for from 30 to 40 days with a high temperature prevailing, and generally bright sunshine and desiccating winds.

Since January 1st 1898, only about 50 per cent of the normal amount of rain has fallen in the State while in places the percentage is much less.

There was an abundance of bright sunshine, estimated at 88 per cent. of the possible.

There was a wind storm in Greenville, and one in Orangeburg during the week, doing slight damage to fruit trees in each instance.

Hail storms occurred in Hampton on May 31st and in Georgetown June 2nd doing some damage over their respective paths of progress.

The crop situation is but little changed since last report, except that the need of rain is greater. Farm work made rapid advance except where the ground is too hard and dry to plow. Fields are easily kept free from grass, and are exceptionally well cultivated, with the crops and ground in the best condition to be benefited by the rain when it comes.

The condition of the corn crop is not perfectly satisfactory; stands are not perfect and on bottom lands still being damaged by worms. Corn has a good color but is small. The heat causes it to wilt during the day. On many bottoms the stand is poor as there is not enough moisture to germinate all the seed. Laying by of corn has begun in the eastern counties although corn has made slow growth generally. It is now in that stage, in the eastern counties, where it must have rain to make proper growth.

There was a slight improvement in the condition of cotton over the entire State during the week. Where the stands have heretofore been defective, no improvement in that respect is to be noted, but cotton made some growth and is in a healthy condition generally, the exception being that lice are apparently damaging the plant in Barnwell, Aiken, Orangeburg and to a less extent in a few other counties. In Greenwood it is deteriorating for want of rain. It is below average growth. Some patching being done to better stands which average considerably below perfect.

Cotton has generally received its second plowing and is chopped to stands, except in the extreme western counties. In many localities cotton is in fine condition. Fields are clean and well cultivated. Cotton is putting on squares in the southeastern counties. On the same date in 1897 squares were general over the eastern half of the State.

Sea Island cotton is not doing well for want of moisture.

The weather has been all that could be desired for harvesting oats. Nearly all early oats has been out and housed in excellent condition. Yields were

generally above an average, but in a few places were poor on account of drought. Spring corn oats are very poor in poor in most places will be complete failure.

The weather favored wheat harvesting, which made rapid progress, and will be generally completed during the current week. In most places the yield is above an average, in some the best yield for years, while in portions of Oconee and Spartanburg the yield falls below last year's.

Melons are improving are now doing finely. In portions of Florence, musk melons are a failure.

Tobacco is in good condition generally, but needs rain badly except where showers fell during the week. Worms less numerous than last week.

Rice doing finely and growing well. Planters on the Cooper river are annoyed by salty water owing to low stage of water in the river.

Too dry for setting out sweet potato slips; few have as yet been transplanted. Some being set and watered by hand. Sets drying up in beds.

Irish potatoes are very poor, and in most places a failure, the drought having mined them.

Apples are dropping badly; there will be none at all in portions of Florence. Peaches late in ripening and are small in Edgefield; they are ripening in the southeastern counties. Grapes doing well. Pear trees dying from blight in Sumter.

Blackberries plentiful and promising in places, while elsewhere the berries are drying on the vines. Plums plentiful.

Peas are being extensively planted on stubble lands and in corn fields. The acreage of peas will apparently be larger than usual. Too dry to plant peas over large areas.

Sugar cane is generally doing well but, like all other minor crops, stands in need of rain to enable it to make proper growth. Gardens are parched and in places entirely dried up; failing everywhere, except upper Darlington where vegetables of best quality are abundant.

Pastures are fast failing or are entirely parched, especially in the upper counties, except on moist bottom lands. The heat and scant pastures are hard on farm animals.

Chinch bugs are numerous in York. A comprehensive summary of weather and crop conditions, would indicate that they were favorable over about one third of the state and unfavorable elsewhere.

## Meteorological Record.

The following is a report of observations of the weather taken at Statburg, by Dr. W. W. Anderson, for the past month:

TEMPERATURE					Precipitation in inches.
Date	Max.	Min.	Mean		
1	84	59	71.5	.00	
2	80	63	76.5	.00	
3	90	65	77.5	.00	
4	89	65	77	.00	
5	92	64	78	.00	
6	84	59	70.	.36	
7	61	44	52.5	.00	
8	76	44	60.	.00	
9	76	47	61.5	.00	
10	79	52	65.5	.00	
11	78	60	69.	.00	
12	83	64	68.5	.00	
13	88	64	76.	.00	
14	87	69	78.	Trace	
15	90	65	77.5	.00	
16	89	66	77.5	.00	
17	91	66	78.5	.08	
18	87	61	76.	.00	
19	93	66	79.5	.00	
20	94	69	81.5	.00	
21	94	68	81.	Trace	
22	93	67	80.	.00	
23	90	67	78.5	.00	
24	90	68	79.	.00	
25	89	66	77.5	.04	
26	83	61	72.	.03	
27	86	62	74.	.00	
28	93	68	80.5	.00	
29	97	71	84.	.00	
30	101	74	87.5	.01	
31	80	68	79.	.00	

Mean temperature 75; Maximum temperature 101—date 30th. Minimum temperature 44—date 7, 8.

Total precipitation—11.12 inches.

Number of days clear, 19; partly cloudy, 9; cloudy, 3.

Hail on 23th.

Prevailing wind—Direction: Southwest.

Thunderstorms 6, 14, 17, 24, 25, 26 and 30.

Remarks—Thunderstorms on 14, 17, 21, 24 and 30 were distant.

Kingston, June 7.—The American troops which have been landed near Santiago within the past few days, yesterday made an attack on the Spanish forces and routed them. The Cuban forces aided the Americans and fought bravely against the Spanish. There is no question but that the Cubans will give the Americans the most enthusiastic support and will aid most energetically in the campaign to drive the Spanish from the island without delay.

Cape Haytien, June 7.—Additional details of Santiago bombardment have been received at this point. The American fleet attacked the forts and completely demolished them. The gunners were demoralized and fled from the forts.

## To Prohibit Gambling in Futures.

## Congressman Stokes' Bill to Regulate Future Contracts in Agricultural Products.

From Congressional Information Bureau, 161 Corcoran Building.

Washington, D. C., June 4.—Representative J. William Stokes of South Carolina, the mildest mannered man in Congress, is after the dealers in options and futures with proposed legislation more dangerous than war or the rumors thereof.

Mr Stokes is a student as well as a Congressman. His convictions are the result of careful study. They are not spasmodic, but firm fixed and lasting. He is not trying in one fell swoop to scatter the exchanges to the winds. He is working up his plan systematically, earnestly, and with diligent care.

He is going to make the fight next winter. He has assurances of co-operation from many members of Congress, the National Grange, the American Cotton Growers' Association, the Inter State Cotton Growers' Association, and the agricultural organizations throughout the country. The Cotton Planters' Journal of Memphis and other papers devoted to farming interests have already pledged to the cause their hearty support.

Mr Stokes has introduced "A Bill Relating to Future Contracts in Agricultural Products." This bill will be made the basis of the fight. It declares that "options" and "futures" are obstructions to and restraints upon commerce and are illegal and void and that dealing in them shall constitute a misdemeanor punishable by a fine equal to the amount of the contract if it is not less than a thousand dollars and by imprisonment from one to five years. It provides also that every distinct contract shall constitute a separate offense for both buyer and seller. It provides for enjoining and properly punishing merchants or exchange boards of other associations that deal in options and futures.

Mr Stokes has received thousands of petitions and letters from all over the country endorsing his bill and urging its passage. From his home district, the Seventh, South Carolina, he received 1,091 petitions containing about 8,000 signatures. He launched his bill with an elaborate speech, in the course of which he said:

"Mr. Chairman, the man who should advisedly bargain away in the beginning of the year, at a clearly ascertained loss to himself, a whole year's product of toil and privation, would be adjudged a fool in the assizes of common sense. Still the man would simply have done what he had a right to do with his own. But when that man presumes, unasked, to bargain away the year's product of another in advance, even if at no cost to that other, the natural and proper feeling would be one of resentment toward him.

"If it became clear that he bargained the year's product of another in advance, bargained it and sold it in time and time again at an appreciable cost to the producer, I think it quite likely that violent remedies would be applied.

"That is essentially the relation of the 'future' operator to the producer of cotton and other agricultural staples.

"Through all the six thousand years and more of the world's history down to 1872, the world had gotten along without the services of the option dealer, and had gotten along fairly well. He owes his birth to a decade of debauch of public conscience during and subsequent to a period of public war and consequent public plunder. The continued toleration of his superfluous and officious presence is due to the grip acquired upon the public throat during the stupor incident to that manly debauch.

"Hear what was said by the Senate Committee, presided over by that able jurist, the late Senator George, of Mississippi:

"In the first place let it be noted that in and through and under the regulations of the two cotton exchanges of New York and New Orleans can this business be transacted. The Cotton Exchange in New York is a corporation under the laws of that State. It is composed of less than 500 members and the number cannot be increased beyond that. The initiation fee is \$10,000 and the new members are elected by the old. No man can deal directly in futures unless he is a member.

The corporation has absolute power over the dealings. All disputes or controversies are settled by a court established by the corporation itself in what is called arbitration proceedings. Neither party is allowed to call in a Federal or State Court. It fixes the grades of all cotton, designates the warehouses in which it shall be stored, fixes the fees and charges for storage, weighing and all other work done in relation to cotton. It fixes the quotation of prices that are to be published to the world, and these quotations are the fixed under its rules for months for which there are no actual sales.

"It and its members have such wealth that it is claimed in a publish-

ed letter of one of its principal members made in response to argument made on the floor of this body that the exchange can absolutely dominate and fix prices, as against all others, by flooding the market with offers of an unlimited supply of futures when at other places prices are, in its opinion, too high, and thus break the market; and on the other hand when it deems prices are too low at other places may immediately buy all that can be offered. The New Orleans Cotton Exchange though located in the largest spot cotton market this side of the Atlantic, is a mere annex to and subordinate of the New York Cotton Exchange and so need not be described further than by saying if it had the will to do good it has not the power. Such are the agencies and localities of these dealings, and they are the sole agencies and localities of these dealings and transacting of this business."

After explaining the significance and importance of this statement, Mr Stokes continued:

"Not only is this absolute power over prices exercised to the farthest limit of its tremendous sweep—the unsavory proof of its exercise appears in the unbroken policy and depressed prices in the fall and higher prices in the spring. By unlimited offerings in advance of October, November, December, and January futures, the prices of contracts for those months are forced down as already shown. The spot cotton market follows the contract market.

"During these months the bulk of the crop passes out of the hands of the producer. It has to be so. Few of them are independent. Under the method of the exchange fewer are independent to day than there were ten years ago. Their obligations must be met. Then, when the bulk of the crop has passed out of the producer's possession, by reversing their tactics the prices are raised. This is notorious. It has been burned into the memory of the cotton producers every year since the exchange intruded its superfluous presence."

Mr Stokes then elaborated the workings of the Exchange and showed its tremendous and dangerous power. He argued in detail that the cotton is now worth three and a half cents less than it would be but for the evil effects of speculation in futures.

"But, Mr. Chairman," he continued, "it is claimed that these contracts are bona fide; that deliveries may be demanded. The conclusive answer to this is that deliveries are never made, and delivery is not contemplated. As an absolute demonstration of this, compare receipts at New York and New Orleans, respectively, with the operations in futures at those points.

"In 1896 the total receipts at New York were 168,000 bales. The sales of futures footed up 56,000,000 bales. At New Orleans the same year total receipts were 864,000 bales, and the sales of futures amounted to 15,498,700 bales. The entire crop of that year was only 7,147,000 bales, 4,627,000 of which were exported and 2,505,000 by domestic mills.

"What do those figures mean? Fifty six and a half millions of bales sold against a total receipt of 168,000 in New York. Seventy million bales of recorded contracts (and the Omniscient only knows how many were not recorded) sold against total receipts of less than 10,000,000. How could deliveries of 70,000,000 bales be made with 10,000,000?

"It is gigantic fraud or gigantic gambling—gambling beside which the wildest orgies of Monte Carlo are tame. This means only one of two things. Either the 69,000,000 bales sold in excess of receipts were gambling contracts pure and simple, or else those receipts were sold over and over again sixty-nine times, and commissions, all of which come out of the producer—charged on every sale."

These extracts show the line of fight which the South Carolina Congressman means to wage.

Mr Stokes considers the great Leiter deal under the ban of this proposed legislation. In explaining it to-day, he said:

"Leiter bet ten million dollars, say, that wheat would go above seventy cents by a certain date and the higher above the bigger would be the stakes according to an agreed sale. He put up the stakes and then with the power of the unlimited money, he went to work to force the price above 70 cents in order that he might win his bet. The higher above 70 cents he could force it the bigger would be his winnings. By timberlegging methods well known on the exchanges, he forced the price up to 77 cent cents. Then it occurred to him if he could get control of the actual wheat, he could demand delivery of actual wheat instead of the margins. In that event his antagonists would have to come to him for wheat to fulfill their gambling contracts, and so he could force the price up indefinitely. That is precisely what he did. He bought up all the wheat in the market—at what price? At the price he himself had fixed by manipulating the figures on the exchange. Then what? Having control of the actual wheat and of the gambling contracts as well he actually forced the price up to \$1.85 per bushel. However we may disagree about terms descriptive of these acts, there can be no rubbing out of the fact that the price went up from 77 cents per bushel to \$1.85, after Leiter bought actual wheat. This increase took place in the main, after the producer parted with his product."

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Dr. Hathaway & Co.'s experience during the last 20 years has proved the fact that they have cured thousands of cases where other doctors have failed, and this warrants them in making this remarkable offer. All persons who are suffering from any chronic disease have now an opportunity to test the treatment of the acknowledged leading physicians and specialists of this country, with an absolute surety of being cured. Special diseases, such as catarrh, blood poison, weakness, etc., are cured.

men and women which affect the delicate organs of private diseases of all kinds, rheumatism, neuralgia, varicose veins, female troubles, skin eruptions, eczema, kidney and urinary diseases, liver and stomach difficulties, liquorism and morphia habits, or any chronic disease. Our treatment can be taken at home under our directions, or we will pay railroad fare and hotel bill to all who prefer to come to our office for treatment, if we fail to cure. We give the best of financial and professional references and transact our business on a strictly professional basis, promising nothing but what we can fulfill. We do not believe in any of the so-called "cures," free cure, free sample C.O.D. cures, but think it is best in the end to do business with our patients. Write us to-day, don't be slow.

We have carefully prepared Symptom Blank No. 1, for men; No. 2, for women; No. 3, for skin diseases; No. 4, for catarrh, and new 54 page booklet which we will send Free to all who return truthful information about their condition.

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